

# Dulles Replies Inconclusively To Questions on New Biography

## Gives 3 Reasons for Withdrawing Offer of Aid on Aswan Dam—Parries Query on Eisenhower Assurance to Chiang

Special to The Times  
WASHINGTON, April 2—

Secretary of State Dulles was questioned at length today about foreign policy statements in a new book about himself, but his answers were inconclusive.

The scene was the Secretary's weekly conference. The subject was a new biography of John Robinson Beal, entitled "John Foster Dulles" and spiced with two highly inflammatory assertions.

One was that Mr. Dulles had withdrawn the United States offer last July to help Egypt build the High Dam at Aswan on the Nile to force a diplomatic showdown with the Soviet Union in the Middle East.

The other was that President Eisenhower had assured Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek privately that the United States would help defend the Quemoy and Matsu islands from any attack by Communist China.

The newsmen, debating later what Mr. Dulles' replies meant, tended to the opinion that they added up to a denial of Mr. Beal's reporting on both points. There was room, however, for those who combed them for nuances and loopholes to contend that Mr. Beal had not emerged badly after all.

### Aswan Report Challenged

On the Aswan Dam, for example, Mr. Dulles seemed to be saying that Mr. Beal was wrong, that the Secretary had not quashed the United States offer to demonstrate that Moscow's pretensions to match this country's foreign-economic power were hollow.

Mr. Dulles gave three reasons for the action, none of them matching Mr. Beal's story, but he left Mr. Beal's central thesis substantially unchallenged.

This was that Egypt's steady drift toward Moscow had exasperated the United States and that President Gamal Abdel Nasser's request for a large amount of United States assistance while also courting communism afforded a dramatic chance for demonstrating to the world that the two courses were incompatible.

Mr. Dulles said he thought the question whether he had canceled the Aswan Dam offer to force a showdown with the Soviet Union in the Middle East "could be answered in the negative." There were three reasons for the cancellation, he said.

First, the Senate resolved that no United States funds could be used in the coming year for the dam, the secretary said.

The second reason was that the austerity program Egyptians would have to bear to pay their share of the cost might result in Egyptian popular antagonism to "the foreign lenders, Mr. Dulles went on.

The third was the fact that Egypt had been "developing ever-closer relations with the Soviet bloc countries," and had recognized Communist China, he said.

### Egypt Said to Force Issue

Thus the Egyptians "forced upon us an issue" to decide: "Do nations which play both sides get better treatment than nations which are stalwart and work with us?" he said.

"Stalwart allies were watching very carefully to see what the answer would be; stalwart allies which included some in the same area," he explained.

This explanation seemed to differ only by degrees from Mr. Beal's version; that is, that the United States decision had been dictated by a desire to demonstrate that the State Department would not tolerate simultaneous friendship with Moscow and access to the United States Treasury.

On the second point, about President Eisenhower's alleged assurances on the Quemoy and Matsu islands, the Secretary's reply was equally elliptical.

Had any guarantees ever been given to Generalissimo Chiang?

"No," Mr. Dulles said. But, he added, the United States was publicly committed to defend not only Taiwan [Formosa] and the Penghu [Pescadores] area, but "other related areas if their defense is connected with the defense" of Nationalist China.

Had a secret letter been sent to Generalissimo Chiang?

The Secretary was asked. Mr. Dulles "wouldn't want to say there had never been any State communications between the President and the heads of other governments."

Did he know of any personal assurance from the President that might have satisfied Generalissimo Chiang that the United States would defend the Quemoy and Matsu Islands? Mr. Dulles was asked.

"I am quite confident that there was nothing beyond what I have

Was it fair, then, to say that there was "No American commitment of any kind implicit or explicit, stated or implied, to defend these islands" beyond what was public knowledge? "That is another question," Mr. Dulles replied. "Mr. Beal's book did not say that President Eisenhower had made a commitment. The burden of Mr. Beal's report was that Generalissimo Chiang had misgivings about United States intentions and that President Eisenhower had been able to mollify him with a personal letter."

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